

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-02 IO-03 DPW-01

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R 280512 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3830

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11626

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 27, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO/ SAIGON, USSAG NKP
27 JUNE REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0504

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT SITREP FOR JUNE 27, 1973

SUMMARY: THE VC APPEARS TO HAVE INFLICTED A SEVERE
DEFEAT UPON AN ARVN BATTALION IN CHUONG THIEN, DESPITE
SANGUINE REPORTS FROM MR IV. AN RVNAF GROUP SUCCESSFULLY
INTERCEPTED A LARGE NUMBER OF VC/ NVA INFILTRATORS IN KIEN
GIANG. VINH BINH AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED TWO SUSPECTS
IN THE RECENT MURDER OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S FAMILY
ANOTHER ICCS HELICOPTER WAS FIRED UPON IN CA MAU. DINH
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TUONG VC MAY BE RETURNING TO QUASI- GUERRILLA WARFARE.
A GREAT FIRE DESTROYED THE COCONUT MONK'S ISLAND RETREAT.
END SUMMARY

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV REPORTED 30 ALLEGED

VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 25 AND 30 MARE JUNE 26.
ON JUNE 25 THERE WERE FOUR GROUND ATTACKS, 18 ABF'S, SEVEN HARASSMENTS, AND ONE TERRORIST ACT; THE NEXT DAY SAW TWO GROUND ATTACKS, 22 ABF'S, FIVE HARASSMENTS, AND ONE VC INFILTRATION INCIDENT. RVNAF LOSSES WERE 19 KILLED, 148 WOUNDED, AND TWO MISSING ON JUNE 25, AND 22 KILLED AND 96 WOUNDED THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE VC REPORTEDLY LOST 64 KILLED JUNE 25 AND 33 JUNE 26.

(B) THE UNRELIABILITY OF MR IV BRIEFING FIGURES IS UNERLINED BY WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE DEFEAT INFLICTED UPON THE ARVN JUNE 26 IN CHUONG THIEN. MR IV RECEIVED THE NEWS BUT DECLINED TO MENTION THE BATTLE IN THE DAILY BRIEFING. WE UNDERSTAND THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE 9 TH ARVN DIVISION'S 16 TH REGIMENT CLASHED WITH TWO BATTALIONS OF THE VC D-1 REGIMENT AT APPROXIMATELY 1430 HOURS IN HOA AN VILLAGE NEAR ROUTE 31. EARLY REPORTS INDICATE ARVN LOST 70 KILLED AND 60 WEAPONS, AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WOUNDED AND MISSING. THESE FIGURES SUGGEST THE ARVN BATTALION MAY HAVE BEEN AMBUSHED AND FLED THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

(C) AN RVNAF GROUP BLOODIED A FORCE OF NVA INFILTRATORS IN A SHARP CLASH JUNE 19 19 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KIEN TAN DISTRICT TOWN, KIEN GIANG. WHEN SECTOR AUTHORITIES LEARNED THAT AN NVA FORCE OF UNKNOWN SIZE HAD CROSSED INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 8 A DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 24/25, THEY DISPATCHED THE 474 TH RF BATTALION AND THE 3/9 ARMORED CAVALRY TROOP TO INTERCEPT THE INTERLOPERS. THE GVN FORCE CAUGHT SG WITH THE NVA AT 1030 HOURS THE NEXT MORNING AND, ACCORDING TO KIEN GIANG SECTOR, KILLED 38 AND CAPTURED FOUR OF THEIR ENEMY, AND SEIZED 18 AK-47 S. THE GVN FORCE LOST FOUR KILLED, 17 WOUNDED, AND AN APC. WE RECENTLY REPORTED THAT MR IV HAS SENT TWO RANGER BATTALIONS TO KIEN GIANG TO REINFORCE EFFORTS TO CLOSE OFF VC/ NVA INFILTRATIONS ALONG THE 1- C SUPPLY CORRIDOR WHICH RUNS THROUGH THE PROVINCE (CAN THO 0496)

(D) CAMBODIAN CATTLE RUSTLERS IN CHAU DOC GOT THEIR COMEUPPANCE RECENTLY AT THE HANDS OF A PSDF POSSE. A
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GROUP SAID TO BE KHMER ROUGE RUSTLING COWS IN TINH BIEN DISTRICT FELL INTO A PSDF AMBUSH JUNE 24, AND THREE OF THEIR NUMBER WERE KILLED. THE POST- CEASEFIRE II QUIET OF CHAU DOC WAS FURTHER PUNCTURED BY THREE INCIDENTS THE SAME DAY IN NORTHERN AN PHU DISTRICT. THE VC MORTARED THE NHON HOI VILLAGE COMPOUND. VC THREW SIX GRENADES INTO AN OUTPOST IN KHANH AN VILLAGE, KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING EIGHT. A PF UNIT TRIED TO AMBUSH A GROUP OF FIVE VC, BUT NO ONE WAS KILLED.

(E) AMERICAN SOURCES SAY VC ATTACKED A HAMLET OFFICE JUNE 24 IN VINH QUOI VILLAGE, NGA NAM DISTRICT, BA XUYEN, KILLING THE HAMLET CHIEF, THREE PF, AND ONE PSDF. SIX CIVILIANS WERE KIDNAPPED, TWO PF WOUNDED, AND 18

WEAPONS LOST. MR IV BRIEFERS DID NOT REPORT THIS INCIDENT.

(F) VINH BINH AUTHORITIES SAY THEY HAVE ARRESTED TWO VC SUSPECTS IN THE JUNE 20 ASSASSINATION OF PROVINCE CHIEF NGUYEN HUU KIEM'S WIFE, TWO DAUGHTERS, AND THREE OTHER (CAN THO 0484). ONE OF THE SUSPECTS ALLEGEDLY CONFESSED HIS PART IN THE MURDER. THE VINH BINH AUTHORITIES SAY THEY WILL TAKE THE SUSPECTS TO SOC TRANG TO TALK TO THE ICCS TEAM WHICH INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT.

2. ICCS: AN ICCS CANADIAN MAJOR IN CAN THO TOLD A VICE CONSUL THAT AN ICCS HELICOPTER WAS TWICE FIRED UPON IN CA MAU, AN XUEYN, DURING THE MORNING OF JUNE 26. THE HELICOPTER, WITH A CANADIAN, A HUNGARIAN, AND A CREW OF TWO ON BOARD, RECEIVED A SINGLE ROUND OF SMALL ARMS FIRE WHILE SPIRALING DOWN UPON CA MAU AT APPROXIMATELY 1130 HOURS. THE SHIP RECEIVED ANOTHER ROUND FROM A DIFFERENT GROUND LOCATION AS IT WAS TAKING OFF A FEW MINUTES LATER. THE CANADIANS DECIDED THE CASUAL FIRE SUGGESTED BORED GVN SOLDIERS, RATHER THAN HOSTILE VC, WERE RESPONSIBLE, SO THEY DECIDED NOT TO REPORT THE INCIDENT. RATHER SURPRISINGLY, NEITHER DID THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS.

3. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) VC/NVA INCIDENTS HAVE DECLINED IN DINH TUONG DURING CEASEFIRE II BUT AUTHORITIES REMAIN SKEPTICAL. ARVN CONTINUES OPERATIONS AT CEASEFIRE I LEVEL AND HAS EXPANDED ITS ACTIVITIES INTO TRI PHAP VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN DINH TUONG. THE VC/NVA HAVE NOT YET FOUND A WAY TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER THIS ENCROACHMENT, BUT THE GVN IS FAR FROM GAINING REAL CONTROL OVER THE CONTESTED AREA.

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(B) AN INCREASED NUMBER OF TERRORIST ATTACKS AND BOOBY-TRAPPED VC FLAGS MAY BE THE HARBINGER OF A NEW ROUND OF QUASI-GUERRILLA WARFARE IN DINH TUONG. IF SO, THE PRESENT DEMOBILIZATION OF 25 PF PLATOONS IN THE PROVINCE BODES ILL FOR FUTURE SECURITY. THE GVN IS ENCOURAGING THE PF TO BECOME ARVN OR RF SOLDIERS. THIS MOVE MAY INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF GVN MAIN FORCES BUT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT SECURITY IN THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS, WHERE THE LOCALLY RECRUITED PF IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE ANTI-GUERRILLA WEAPON.

4. MISCELLANY: A GIANT CONFLAGRATION JUNE 26 DESTROYED THE COCONUT MONK'S RETREAT ON AN ISLAND IN THE MEKONG NEAR MY THO. EARLY REPORTS SAY THE FIRE BEGAN WHEN SOMEONE ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED OVER A STOVE. THE TEMPLE WAS REPORTED UNDAMAGED, BUT 750 HOUSES WERE TOTALLY DESTROYED AND 4000 PEOPLE DISPOSSED. THE HOMELESS FLED TO MY THO AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES. WE UNDERSTAND NO ONE WAS KILLED AND ONLY ONE OLD MAN WAS HURT. THE RED CROSS AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES ARE RENDERING AID TO THE VICTIMS.

WISNER

H

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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